

This is ACERON, the official journal of the National Fantasy Fan Federation Games Bureau, Diplomacy Division. It appears at irregular intervals. It is free to Members of the Division, 10/\$1 to members of the Bureau, 10/\$1.50 to others.

This is Pandemonium Publication #264, edited and published by Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., SanDiego CA 92116. NFFF Games Bureau Chairman: Don Miller. Diplomacy Division Chief; Rod Walker.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: A number of new members have joined the Division, and I would like to welcome them. In order to keep things straight, I have prepared a complete list of the membership, with addresses, which appears below. *indicates members by election; **indicates honorary members.

1. Jim Barber, 111 E. GoldenLake Ln., CirclePines MN 55014.
2. *Doug Boyerlein, 3934 S.W. Southern, Seattle WA 98116.
3. Ken Borocki, 19 Royal Rd., RockvilleCentre NY 11570 or P.O. Box 255, R.C. NY 11571.
4. Walt Buchanan, R.R. #3, Lebanon IN 46052. (ARCHIVES DIRECTOR)
5. Mike Childers, P.O. Box 1201, CollegeStation TX 77840.
6. P. M. Gaylord, 2035 Todd Dr., St.Paul MN 55112.
7. R. A. Holcombe, 233 Orange St., #306, Oakland CA 94610.
8. Bob Johnson, P.O. Box 134, Whippany NJ 07881.
9. Eric Just, Box 131, Paoli OK 73074.
10. Jeff Koy, 4611 N. Pennsylvania, Apt. 1-D, OklahomaCity OK 73112.
11. Henry Axel Krigsman, Jr., 12 Kilburn Ave., HuntingtonStation NY 11746.
12. Len Lakofka, 1806 N. Richmond, Chicago IL 60647.
13. *Dave Lebling, P.O. Box 281, H.I.T. Branch P.O., Cambridge MA 02139.
14. David R. Lindsay, 2245 Fairmont Pkwy., Erie PA 16510.
15. Harry Manogg, P.O. Box 769, Kenkakee IL 60901.
16. John McCallum, P.O. Box 52, Ralston, Alberta, CANADA.
17. Bill McDuffie, 93 Parkdale, Buffalo NY 14213.
18. John Mensinger, 1320 Magnolia Ave., Modesto CA 95350.
19. Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton MD 20906. (GAMES BUREAU CHAIRMAN)
20. Hal Naus, 1011 Barrett Ave., ChulaVista CA 92011.
21. *Charles Reinsel, Box 36, Marionville PA 16239.
22. Larry St.Cyr, 1516 GeorgeWashington, UMASS, Amherst MA 01002.
23. Doug Schaefer, 84 FarmView Dr., Guilford CT 06437.
24. Chris Schleicher, 5122 W. Carmen Avo., Chicago IL 60630.
25. *John Smythe, 4207 Teri Ln., Lincoln NB 68502.
26. Buddy Tretick, Apt. 104, 1292 S.W. 74th St., OklahomaCity OK 73159 (until 30 March, then back to 3702 Wendy Ln., SilverSpring MD 20906).
27. Don Turnbull, 6 St.George's Ave., Timperley, Cheshire, ENGLAND.
28. Bob VanAndel, 119 Boor Hall, Calvin Collogo, GrandRapids MI 49506.
29. Conrad vonMetzke, 1530½ Dale St., SanDiego CA 92102.
30. Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., SanDiego CA 92116. (DIVISION CHIEF)
31. *Bob Ward, 2423 P St., Sacramento CA 95816.
32. Grog Warden, 4504 Walnut St., #5, Philadelphia PA 19139.
33. Charles Wells, 3021 Washington Blvd., Cleveland OH 44118.
34. *Charles Welsh, Box 3197, Brown Univ., Providence RI 02912.
35. **Allan Calhamer, 501 N. Stone, LaGrangePark IL 60525.

BALLOT RESULTS: Of 35 ballots outstanding, 24 were returned. Submitting ballots: Barber, Boyerlein, Borocki, Buchanan, Gaylord, Johnson, Just, Koy, Krigsman, Lakofka, Lebling, Lindsay, Mensinger, Miller, Naus, Reinsel, St.Cyr, Schleicher, Smythe, Trotick, VanAndel, Walker, Ward, Welsh. Failing to return ballots: Childers, Holcombe, Manogg, McCallum, McDuffie, Schaefer, Wells, vonMetzke. Other non-returnees: Calhamer (honorary; not required, but would be appreciated); Turnbull (British postal strike); Warden (joined after deadline).

#5 — 23 February 1971

ACHERON

Item 1: Removal of inactive members: Yes, 20; No, 4.

Inactive = failure to return: 2 consecutive ballots, 8; 3 consecutive ballots, 15; no vote, 1.

Item 2: Admission of Derek Nelson: Yes, 20; No, 0; Abstain, 4.

Item 3: Ballot deadlines should be: 2-3 weeks, 5; 3-4 weeks, 12; 4-6 weeks, 3; 6-8 weeks, 1; Other, 3 (1, 3-6 weeks; 1, 1 month; 1, abstain).

Item 4: Homes for "orphan" games were offered by: Gaylord, Johnson, Just, Lakofka, Mencinger, St.Cyr, Schleicher, Tretick, and VanAndel. Thank you, gentlemen. I will be making use of this information in future.

Actions to be taken: 1. Members who fail to return 3 consecutive ballots will be declared "inactive" and dropped from the roll of membership. I think it only fair, however, to reinstate these members if they are otherwise still eligible for membership, request reinstatement, and return the next ballot. Late Ballots: I will count any ballot which is received after the deadline but before I have actually typed the ballot results in ACHERON.

2. I will write Mr. Nelson and invite him to join.

3. The members obviously prefer, on the whole, shorter deadlines than I have recommended. So be it. Deadline for receipt will be generally 3-4 weeks from nomination. The next ballot will have a slightly longer deadline, so as to coincide with the deadline for Division Chief nominations. The one kicker in this is that I cannot afford, in terms of either time or money, to produce 12 issues of ACHERON per year. See below for some thoughts on this problem.

NOMINATIONS: Please remember that nominations for the position of Division Chief, 1971-1973, must be received by me on or before 1 April 1971. If the candidate is not now a member of the Division, he must join by then. You can nominate yourself. Any candidate may submit to me a campaign statement, printed on one or both sides of a single sheet of paper, in 50 copies, to be distributed with ACHERON 6. Only one person has thus far been nominated (Rod Walker), and my campaign statement is enclosed with this issue. I will not distribute a second statement with ACHERON 6, since each candidate ought to be limited to only one such distribution, in the interest of fairness. What candidates send out on their own is another matter, of course.

THE DIRECTOR SYSTEM: Since the Division Chief's time is severely limited, the only way we are going to get new projects on the road is to have other members become responsible for them. Members who have projects they would like to undertake for the Division should contact me. If the project is a necessary one, does not overlap current projects, and does not involve any financial obligation on the part of the Division, the Division Chief will appoint the proposer Director of that project with certain specified responsibilities. A standard responsibility will be the submission of progress reports on ballot deadlines for publication in ACHERON. The Division Chief will replace inactive Directors and/or cancel inactive projects. If the project does involve a financial obligation on the part of the Division, the members will have to vote on the question in order to determine whether they wish to lay out the cash. Members who have ideas for projects, but don't want to direct them, should write me anyway, and we'll see if we can't find you a Director. A Director must of course be a member of the Division, but if somebody is directing a Division project, that seems to me sufficient qualification for membership. Ideas, comments, suggestions, support for, or opposition to any or all of the foregoing will be welcome, of course.

THE ARCHIVES PROJECT. Some of us have long been concerned with the preservation of the "heritage" of postal Diplomacy; that is, its published record in the form of Gamelines, Gonzines, propagandazines, and what-have-you. It was and is our hope to: (1) to locate and catalogue all major repositories of postal Diplomacy material (all of which are private collections), (2) to insure as much as possible against the loss or destruction of these repositories, and (3) to make available to any interested party originals or copies of any items he may desire, and to do so at a reasonable price. Otherwise, the time will come--if we do not act now--when many rare items will have vanished forever or will be available (if at all) only at an outrageous surcharge. I have therefore taken action to give impetus to this dormant but necessary project.

ARCHIVES DIRECTOR. I hereby appoint Walter Buchanan, editor of HOOSIER ARCHIVES, as Archives Director for the NFTFBDD, to serve until resignation or replacement. Mr. Buchanan is intensely interested in the bibliographic end of our hobby and has already begun to amass a considerable collection of material. If current possibilities jell, Mr. Buchanan at year's end will possess one of the most complete collections of original materials in the country. His little gonzino, HOOSIER ARCHIVES, began as a listing of his holdings and a request to purchase materials. It is now turning into a first-rate bibliographic review and will in addition reprint out-of-print and hard-to-get items. Mr. Buchanan offers xerox copies of any item in his collection at very reasonable rates. Subscriptions to H.A. are one stamped, self-addressed envelope per copy. Issues 1-4 available.

In the coming months I hope to help Mr. Buchanan obtain a complete catalog of the major Diplomacy libraries in the country--particularly those belonging to Mason, Boardman, Key, Alderson, Koning, Walker, Wolls, Miller, McCallum, Phillips, and possibly other major collectors. We will then want to insure that an original or a copy of everything is on deposit with Mr. Buchanan. Walt has already, because of his abiding personal interest, gone to considerable expense in this, and will continue to do so if necessary. No expenditure of Division funds is involved. Those of you who can help him in this project are urged to write (address, page 1). Particularly--if you have Diplomacy stuff sitting around you no longer need or want, bundle it off to Walt 3rd class--and please urge your readers to do the same. Since Walt's storage facilities are limited at the moment, you could also send bulk material to me. Proper storage of excess material now will insure future collectors at least some original copies out of this dim era.

DIVISION AFFILIATION. I would like to request that all editors/publishers who are members of the Division make some notation in your 'zine to this effect. Just a single sentence (see EREHWON or ADAG for a sample) would be nice. Please?

PONTEVEDRIA. This is a new Division 'zine, in addition to ACHERON and GEHENNA. Like the latter, it goes to people it concerns, not to members. It is 10¢ a copy. The purpose of PONTEVEDRIA is to introduce postal Diplomacy to "new blood". Issue #1 (21 February 1971, 4op) mentions the origin of the hobby, discusses 11 Diplomatic "conventions" ('Zino names, trade agreements, the 5 seasons, rules disputes, press releases, Boardman Numbers, the Gamosmaster, stand-by players, General Orders, the game fee, and deadlines), lists all game openings known to me, lists active gonzines, and discusses variant Diplomacy. A copy is being sent to all "new blood" of whom I become aware. This is another service of our Division and your dues will (I hope) help subsidize it.

Flyers. I am willing to distribute flyers with PONTEVEDRIA. Each flyer must be printed on one or both sides of 8x11 (or smaller) paper. It may consist of anything: advertisement, a one-sheet sample of your 'zine, whatever. This service

is available to Division members only. It will cost you 1¢ a flyer. Please send me a batch of 50 (and 50¢) or a batch of 100 (and \$1) (no more), and I will see they are distributed with PONTEVEDRIA. Please be sure that whatever you say about game fees, sub fees, 'zine content, etc., will hold true for the next six months at least.

"ORPHAN" GAMES: The Division Chief is actively engaged in restarting such games. Recent and current projects:

1. The Flying "Tournament". GEHENNA #5, 29 January 1971, went out on this, sent to active and "dropped" players alike (since some players, at least, wore "dropped" without sufficient excuse), with a 1 March deadline for reply. Evans is still in Bakersfield, but refuses to respond to letters on the tournaments. It is proposed in GEHENNA 5 that the 59 "tournament" games be cancelled and expunged from the records, and a new, smaller, tournament be organized for those players who are interested. Response thus far has been very spotty.

2. PONTIAC. GEHENNA #6, 8 February 1971, went out on the apparent demise of Kuhle's line. It turns out that he has simply refused to answer my letters on the subject. Our trade agreement is now (?) reactivated, so that this may not happen again--however, DROB #109 is already more than a month late....

3. THE FANTASY INDEX. The proposed transfer to Harry Manegg will be effected by the Division if not undertaken by the 28th by the present editors. More on this in ACHERON 6.

4. INVALIS/FRIGATE. Louis Meyhert's FRIGATE has merged with LEGATUS. However, Axel Lindgren is experiencing some publishing difficulty and, in addition, Axel hopes to go to PostPoint next year. Negotiations are now under way to transfer the LEGATUS and INVALIS games, at least temporarily (until Axel can publish again) to another Connoisseur. More on this in ACHERON 6.

5. STAR/RACTAROY. John Koning's games have been hanging fire for some time, now. John has remained active in games, and has indicated frequently that he would publish "soon". I am going to write John on this. Perhaps a temporary GM/publisher until John is ready to publish again himself on a regular basis would be the answer.

6. LA CUFRE. Some of Buddy Tretick's games are stalled for lack of replacement players. Any help in finding stand-bys for Buddy would be appreciated. I will be in touch with Buddy on a game-by-game basis in order to assist him in getting them moving again.

VARIANT "ORPHANS". The Division operates through GEHENNA to find homes for regular games. I have imposed this limitation because that's all I have time for and because I don't keep records on variants. Would anybody like to perform this same service for variants? There are some which need it, I think.

ACHERON'S SCHEDULE. A monthly schedule for ACHERON, which is presupposed by monthly ballot deadlines, presents difficulties, as already noted. First, finance: once postal rates go up (May), I will not be able to produce and mail a copy of the 'zine for less than 10¢--which means a yearly expenditure per member of \$1.20, 20% above current dues (and, in addition, nothing left over to finance other Division projects, such as GEHENNA and PONTEVEDRIA). Now, I'm willing to sink some of my own money--as well as my time--into this, but I'd like to hold it to a reasonable level. We could raise dues, but I'd rather not if it can be avoided.

Second, I am presently blessed with considerable spare time. Sooner or later this is going to be cut drastically--certainly by May if not before. The time to type, publish, collate, address, and mail copies of ACHERON once a month may not be available.

ACHERON 5

As a temporary expedient, two things are likely. First, while I will publish ACHERON at the first available opportunity after the ballot deadline, there is likely to be some delay, possibly amounting to two weeks or more (this issue is dated 12 days after the last deadline, e.g.). Second, some issues will not have ballots. I don't like that idea, because even if there is no pressing matter up for vote, I often have things I want to solicit your opinions on in an "advisory" vote.

I am most interested in ideas you may have on this. The enclosed ballot has a section devoted to some specific questions in this area.

A DIVISION GENZINE? There has been, and still is, a lot of interest in having within the Division a general opinion/information 'zine in which members could have letters published, address changes could be posted, and so on. The Moncho wrench in the works has been that we have nobody to edit and publish the boast. We still don't. However, I would like to suggest how such a 'zine would operate and ask for additional ideas--particularly ideas as to whom we might stick with putting it out.

This 'zine--let's call it THE PRATTER--would be primarily for Division members and would probably publish only material for them and from them. It could use differential subscription rates--e.g., 10/\$1 for Division members, 10/\$1.25 for Bureau members, 10/\$1.50 for all others. It could, of course, trade (either with Division members only, or with everybody). THE PRATTER would appear approximately 2 weeks after the previous issue of ACHERON. That way, people could get in letters on the various ballot items and members could read them before the ballot deadline. This would provide the kind of debate-contact that some members have wanted and which I have been unable to provide. THE PRATTER could, in addition, carry symposia on various questions, such as those in DIPLOMANIA, and any other items its editor felt would be of general interest.

What do you think? Would this be worth it? Even more important--do you know of someone who would like to undertake such a project? See the enclosed ballot.

SPECIAL REQUEST: I would like to ask, please, that comments and other material you send in response to this issue be put in a separate letter--not on the back of your ballot, not with game moves, and not with other matters you may be writing me about. This will help me keep track of things better; my subject file gets confused when it has to cope with several items on a single sheet of paper.

Well, that does seem to be all. Time is growing short, and I'd like to get this out tonight.

CAMPAIGN STATEMENT --- Rod Walker

First, I would like to emphasize that, although this is printed on the back of the last page of ACERON, this in no way represents official Diplomacy Division material. I'm doing this to save paper, actually. I'm also testing out my new typewriter. You like?

I am running, as you know, for election to an office which I have previously held by appointment. I base my campaign for election squarely on my record and upon my policies. If I am returned to office, it is my intent to continue the policies and programs already instituted.

It has been said that if you don't blow your own trumpet, nobody else will blow it for you. So here we go. I have served as Division Chief for two years. When I was appointed to this position, the Division had 9 members (of which 3 have subsequently ceased to publish) and had been almost completely dormant for a very long time. It was quite literally an organization in name only. The first several months were a period of groping, of trying to find workable programs and procedures; in fact, I did not settle much of importance in my own mind until about 6 months ago.

Today, the Division occupies an enviable position, in some ways. It is the only active Diplomacy organization of any kind in the country. It has a membership of three dozen Gamesmasters, Editors, Publishers, and other important personalities. This represents a coupling of our membership over each of the last two years.

Coupled with this growth of membership, we have begun a vigorous expansion of our activities and programs. It is my hope that over the next two years we may continue to increase our services to postal Diplomacy. A firm and good foundation has been laid; we have only to build upon it.

What do I offer, as a candidate for Division Chief, in this regard? Most importantly, I offer you a firm and experienced hand at the wheel. Second, I offer realistic leadership. I do not propose to offer you the moon, and promise to the solution of all of postal Diplomacy's problems by the institution of fantastic new programs and procedures yet unheard of. I offer the Division as much work as one very busy human being is capable of doing, plus the prospect of an organized team of workers doing even more under consistent and centralized guidance. This system will yeild results--maybe not fantastic results, but something good and solid and respectable.

Let me say it plainly--for me this election is a vote of confidence. It is a vote of confidence in my ability to administer the Division for two more years; a vote of approval of what I have done and propose to do; a vote favoring the structure and machinery of the Division as they are currently set up. I assure you that you will have a chance to vote on these questions. If, in the remote chance I am the only candidate, the April ballot will ask for a "yes" or "no" vote on my reelection.

I promise you that if I am elected, the Division will continue to progress, and it will progress in directions already laid out for it.